

Forest Conservation Advisory Committee

Minutes

February 23, 2010

Prepared by: David Post

ATTENDEES

Members

Paul Allen (WSSC), ex officio
Ginny Barnes
Rick Brush, (DPS) ex officio
Mark Buscaino, by phone
Andrew Der
Don Galloway
Dan Landry
Brett Linkletter (DPWT), ex officio
Caren Madsen
Norman Mease
Laura Miller (DEP), ex officio
Bill Pastor
Mark Pfefferle (M-NCPPC), ex officio
David Plummer (MSCD), ex officio
David Post

Jeff Schwartz
Linda Silversmith
Kevin Smith
Bryan Straathof
Clark Wagner

Absent members

Pamela Browning
Ken Ferebee

Others attending

Stan Edwards, DEP Staff
Vince Berg
Arlene Bruhn
Diane Cameron, Audubon Naturalist
Society

MINUTES

7:10 pm

January Minutes: Motion to approve - Mark Buscaino

2nd – Ginny Barnes

Approved Unanimously, C. Wagner Abstained

2010 Work Plan

Caren - to write articles for web site

Motion - Bill Pastor - to approve abridged work plan

2nd - Don G.

Unanimous approval

Vice-Chair Andrew Der was welcomed

Budget: Report to County Executive - Connie E. requested a report for budget items by 3/01/10

Review proposed budgets from DEP \$15,000 :

-Gypsy Moth Program

Mostly surveying

Little suppression cost

- Laura Miller salary
- Canopy studies have come out of previous budgets

Discussion re: request for overview of county budget

- There will be work sessions re: budgets later w/opportunity for input from FCAC
- Caren will send letter asking for clarification of request from Connie E.

Diane Cameron, guest speaker, Audubon Naturalist Society

- Environmental site design & forest protection is crucial to SWM goals, clean water requirements
- Forest loss will not let us meet goals
- Chapter 22A needs work to comply with environmental site design
- Bio-habitats performed a code review
 - Recommendations include:
 - Remove exemptions (22A-5)
 - Require all properties to submit water quality plan
 - No thresholds
- May 4, 2010: All proposals must comply with new SWM requirements

Rick Brush: protection of natural resources as part of SWM

- Forest protection since 1980's
- Needs further defining
- Environmental site design includes:
 - protection of natural resources, treating water closer to source, protection of individual trees
- MDE currently reviewing Montgomery County proposed regulation
- Grandfathering may be allowed on long term cases

Clark Wagner:

- Developers & municipalities concerned with effect on smart growth, in-fill developments or re-development, conflicts w/LEED –water treatment has to be done on surface
- Discussed case study in Towson, urban re-development
- Porous pavement – infiltration but not evapo-transpiration
- Roadway code allows for SWM on R/W's

Discussion re: DEP's concept for revising forest conservation law:

In 2008: M-NCPPC reviewed 311 forest conservation apps, (incl. 550 ac. existing forest of which 441 ac. of forest were retained and 110 ac. cleared)

236 applications were for exemptions

80 acres of forest were preserved off site,

129 acres of forest were planted on site and 23 acres of forest were planted off site

In the year with the most applications, 440 reviews resulted in only 5-6 acres of forest loss

Montgomery County: Only 6% left to develop

Suggested that we don't need to change current forest conservation law

What is the canopy cover change? In 2000, 42% (today unknown)

Survival rate of planted forests? According to Mark Pfefferle 91% or more of forests off bonds have been preserved based on Jan 2010 study of 2008 aerals

Tree canopy goals are now going into Master plans

Need laws to back up enforcement of tree canopy goals

DEP proposal projects that more trees will be preserved but does not discriminate as to species – will act as a tree ordinance but technically replaces the Forest Conservation Law

Request was made for a narrative of the DEP proposal - to help committee understand. A comparison was distributed by Laura.

Was suggested that forest conservation could be addressed with zoning by building closer and smaller

Meeting adjourned @ 9:10 pm

Next Meeting: Agenda Items: Budget, Membership Rules, Tele-conferencing